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Hailey Raetz

Why I Am Proud to be An American

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." These famous words make up the preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America. Our constitution lays the foundation for all of America's freedoms today. In America, people have a huge number of rights and freedoms. I am so blessed to live in such a great country. Let me share with you "Why I Am Proud to be An American."

The horrific events of 9/11 and the OKC Murrah Bombings have shown me how resilient the people of this great country are as we rose together while going through these events. We could have allowed these tragic events to break us, but we did not. Instead as Americans we took these events and made good come out of them. These events will be forever written in our history books. The stories should depict proud Americans and how we came together and were made stronger as a result of what we went through. The events didn't define who we were; rather we showed the world who we are by how we rose up and handled the many adversities that were hurled at us. Our patriotism became stronger, evidence of the fact that many men and women joined the Armed Forces to help defend and protect our great country.

Yes the men and women of this great country put themselves on the line to protect everything we stand for. The 5th Amendment adds the freedom of religion, speech, press, petition and assembly. While not everyone agrees on whether we need to be on foreign soils fighting, and we may not like that other Americans will burn the flag of the United States of America or verbally acclaim their dislike of our troops, we need to realize our troops are fighting to defend our rights to disagree on all the above situations. So yes, I am very proud of our troops and how they defend us each and every day. Also, our freedom of religion is one I do not take for granted at all as I realize that in many countries people could be thrown in prison if their beliefs didn't align with that of the country they live in. I have a friend who is a missionary kid in China, and if their family was found to be sharing about Jesus they could be thrown in jail or even worse. Here in the states we have just about every type of religious affiliation; and I do not agree with all of their belief systems, but that's ok. We all have a right to freedom of religion.

One amendment that makes me particularly proud is the 19th Amendment which was added in 1920. This gave the American women the right to vote, which is a freedom that most people take for granted. I know that if I want my voice heard that I need to express my views to my local political representatives. Then I need to exercise my right to vote and get involved. Many countries still do not allow a woman to vote, and I am extremely proud that as an American I have that privilege.

I hope you have seen the many reasons I am proud to be an American. Yes I am proud that we are resilient people, strong and courageous. I am blessed to live in a country with so many freedoms that are daily and moment by moment being protected by the men and women of the United States of America.